

1. What is the Scottish Government's current projected annual spend for the expansion of free Early Years provision to 1140 hours over the 3 years from August 2020 (include the year up to August 2020 if appropriate) for:

- a. Public Sector Provision**
- b. Voluntary Sector provision**
- c. Private Sector provision**

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held) requires the Scottish Government to notify you if it does not have the information you requested. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because multi-year revenue and capital allocations for ELC have been confirmed up to and including financial year 2021-22. Details of these are provided in the attached letter that was sent to local authorities in May 2018.

Local authority revenue allocations for early learning and childcare for the three financial years from 2019-20 to 2021-22 are provided in Annex B of this letter. Local authority capital allocations for early learning and childcare in the four financial years from 2017-18 to 2020-21 are provided in Annex C.

We do not hold data on how this funding is being allocated across public, voluntary and the private sector providers.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the all of the information you have requested.

2. How many additional jobs are currently expected to be created, as a result of the expansion of free Early Years provision, in:

- a. Public Sector**
- b. Voluntary Sector**
- c. Private Sector**

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held) requires the Scottish Government to notify you if it does not have the information you requested. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because we do not hold about the number of additional posts expected to be created in private or voluntary sector.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have all of the information you have requested.

The Improvement Service is collecting regular data from local authorities to report on the progress of the delivery of the expansion. The [September Delivery Progress Report](#) shows that local authorities have forecast that, by April 2021, an additional

8,458 local authority staff (full time equivalents) will be in place to deliver the expansion. The next delivery progress report is due for publication before the end of the year and will contain an up-dated figure.

An exemption applies, subject to the public interest test

An exemption under section 27 (1) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. The Improvement Service has shared with us an up-dated figure on the number of additional local authority staff forecast to be in place by April 2021. The Improvement Service already plan to publish this data before the end of the year. The exemption in section 27(1) allows public authorities to refuse to disclose information if they already plan to publish it within the next 12 weeks, but only if it is reasonable to delay disclosing the information until the planned date of publication.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is some public interest in release because it is in the general public interest that information is accessible. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in ensuring that the data has been properly compiled, checked and quality assured before release. That process is still underway. In advance of the completion of that quality assurance process, as the information is still being compiled, there is a risk that disclosing the information would present a misleading picture.

3. How many hours of free Early Years provision are currently projected to be taken up over the 3 years from August 2020 in:

- a. Public Sector**
- b. Voluntary Sector**
- c. Private Sector**

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held) requires the Scottish Government to notify you if it does not have the information you requested. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because the Improvement Service has collected data from local authorities only on uptake of the 1140 entitlement by provider type. (See answer to question 4).

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

4. How many extra Early Years places are currently projected to be taken up over the 3 years from August 2020, as a result of the Early Years expansion, in:

- a. Public Sector**
- b. Voluntary Sector**
- c. Private Sector**

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held) requires the Scottish Government to notify you if it does not have the information you requested. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because the Improvement Service collected data from local authorities up to April 2021 only and we do not have this data disaggregated by voluntary and private sector.

Data collected by the Improvement Service from local authorities projects that at April 2021, the total number of children receiving more than 600 hours funded ELC across all settings (including both 2-year-olds and 3 to 5-year-olds) is forecast to be 129,193. Of this total, 72% of provision is forecast to be supplied in local authority settings, 26% in private settings and 2% with childminders.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have all of the information you have requested.

5. What is the current expected uptake of free Early Years places by SIMD decile?

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held) requires the Scottish Government to notify you if it does not have the information you requested. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for because the Improvement Service has collected data on the number of children expected to access the 1140 entitlement by age group only. (See answer to question 4). We do not have this data broken down by SIMD.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.